

Taking a look back at Lake Stevens 2010

V.51 N.1

BY PAM STEVENS | MANAGING EDITOR

Lake Stevens had a great and busy year in 2010. They added new residents, had record snow fall and the biggest Aquafest yet.

New citizens were honored and local sports was recognized all throughout the year.

Here's a look back at the most memorable events that took place last year.

January: The City of Lake Stevens welcomed in over 10,000 new residents through the Southwest Annexation.

The Lake Stevens Fire District opened their new Administration Building in the newly annexed area near Tom Thaum grocery. The new facility will also be used as an Emergency Operations Center in case of natural disasters or other emergencies.

Viking wrestlers stood undefeated in the Wesco North league and took third place at Mat Classic.

Janice Thompson and Rod Mace retired as Lake Stevens School District Board members. John Boerger and Kevin Plemel were sworn in to take their place.

February: Lake Stevens High School Principal Ken Collins was recognized as Principal of the Year by the Association of Washington School Principals.

The Lake Stevens Library building celebrated its 25th birthday.

Lake Stevens residents voted to support local schools by passing a levy which will sustain the future of its students.

Senator Steve Hobbs and Rep. Mike Hope worked together to secure \$500,000 in funding for future planning to the Highway 204 and SR9.

March: Plans for an interpretive center and outdoor learning are unveiled for Eagle Ridge Park.

On March 31, the *Journal's* traditional April Fools Day joke went out in mailboxes citing a new footbridge across Lake Stevens was to be built with funds from the Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

April: Many citizens called into

March



The *Journal* "faked out" readers for April Fools Day with footbridge story.

leaders dedicate the new Lake Stevens Community Park on Machias Road. The park includes a memorial in remembrance of local Little League coach Gary Cease.

The Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce holds their annual Showcase Lake Stevens event at Lake Stevens High School.

May: A home invasion in Lake Stevens leaves the homeowners unharmed, however, the suspects were later arrested in connection with another home invasion which total loss.

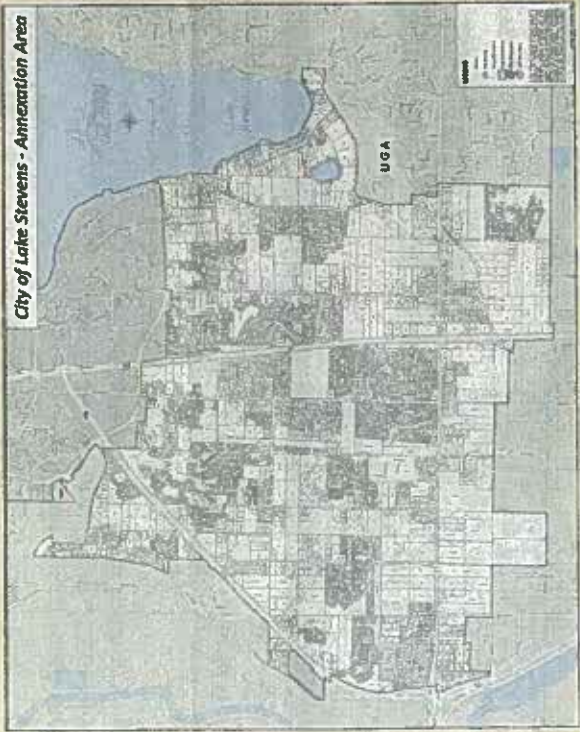
A fire breaks out in a garage on North Lakeshore. The fire is quickly put out but the garage becomes a total loss.

Snohomish County and local

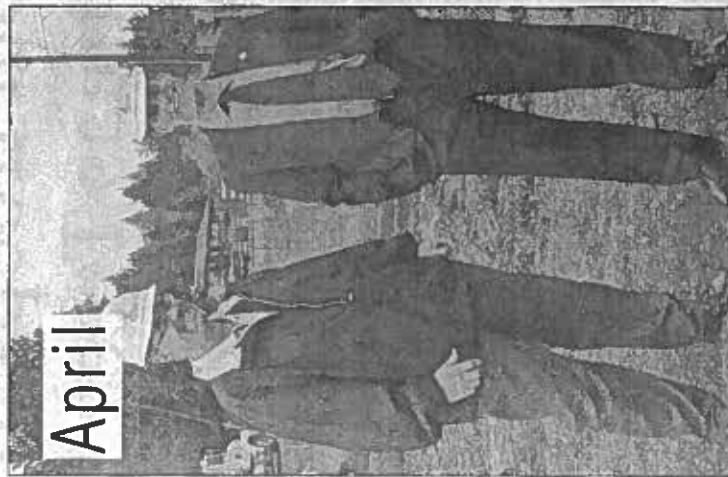
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January

City of Lake Stevens - Annexation Area



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Mayor Vern Little and Rep. Rick Larsen at the Lundeen Parkway roundabout.

ended with a man dead.

American Legion Post 181 announces Vern Rasmussen as Legionnaire of the Year.

Aquafest held their annual Miss Aquafest pageant as the pre-cursor to Aquafest in July. Crystal Wartinger was named the new Miss

Aquafest 2010.

Lake Stevens School District loses Principal Trudi Spierling to cancer. Spierling was a teacher in the district and later became the principal at Mt. Pilchuck and Highland Elementary Schools.

Lake Stevens School District announces that Assistant Superintendent Amy Beth Cook will replace Superintendent Dr. David Burgess by the 2011-2012 school year.

Lake Stevens Police and Aquafest Princesses run the Special Olympics Torch through Lake Stevens.

Snohomish PUD opens a new facility on Hartford Rd. in Lake Stevens. The 13,500 square foot building houses the Water Operation for northern Snohomish County.

June: Three separate fires broke out in Lake Stevens the week of June 2, 2010. One on Hartford Rd., one on Machias Road and one in Southlake. No one was injured in any of the fires.

Rep. Mike Hope recognized as Legislator of the Year for his work in maintaining and increasing public safety.

The Northwest Masters Championship is hosted by the Lake Stevens Rowing Club bringing hundreds of rowers and their families to the waters of Lake Stevens.

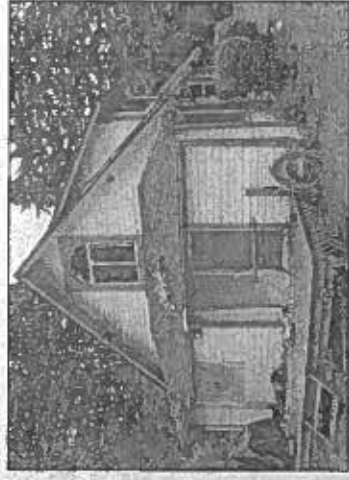
July: The Lake Stevens School District joins the Granite Falls School District in creating a single Alternative High School saving both districts money and creating a good working environment for students.

May



Above: Crystal Wartinger is crowned Miss Aquafest 2010. Right: Principal Trudi Spierling.

June



Hartford Road house after fire.

The Lake Stevens Sewer District receives an award for outstanding performance by the Department of Ecology for the fifth year in a row.

Mitch Robinson was named Citizen of the Year and Kyle Hedges was named Junior Citizen of the Year by the Greater Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce for their years of service and dedication to those in need.

The 50th annual Aquafest hits the streets of downtown Lake Stevens with thousands of visitors. This yearly event has grown over the last fifty years and includes three parades, several sporting events and dozens of food and craft vendors.

August: The Lake Stevens Family Center hosted hundreds of families at this year's National Night Out Against Crime.

Lake Stevens Police honor four-year-old

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Abby Rogers as Chief for a Day. Rogers was battling cancer and the LSPD wanted to create a wonderful experience for a special little girl and her family.

The 70.3 Ironman Triathlon returned to Lake Stevens bringing over 1,500 athletes and their families with them. This year's event boasted temperatures of 90 degrees and higher.

On Thursday, August 19, Lake Stevens Rowing Club member David Balbirona lost his life while rowing on the waters of Lake Stevens. Balbirona and his rowing partner were struck by a motorboat. Both rowers fell into the lake. Balbirona's body was found the next day. The other rower was rescued and uninjured.

A new Born Learning Trail opens in Lake Stevens Community Park. Born Learning Trail promotes early childhood learning and encourages parents to interact with their children.

September: A small aircraft crashes into the fields near Lochsloy. The pilot and his two young passengers escape the crash uninjured.

Lake Stevens High School opens its new stadium. The new football stadium is completely updated and holds over 3,000 fans. South Lake and Davies Road intersection received a new three-way stop making it easier for drivers to get through the intersection.

September 11 in Lake Stevens brought hundreds of volunteers to the city doing landscaping, painting and cleaning. American Legion also hosted a memorial where



July

Enjoying the Aquafest Grand Parade.

they remembered those lost in 2001.

Lake Stevens Fire Chief Gary Faucett was terminated after five years of service.

2010 LSHS football player and graduate Tyler Reside died tragically.

October: Lake Stevens Fire announces that Deputy Fire Chief Dave Lingenfelter named as new Lake Stevens Fire Chief.

Lake Stevens Fire holds a demonstration to show how sprinklers can save lives and property.

Lake Stevens High School and North Lake Middle School both earn the Schools of Distinction recognition, which is awarded

to schools who demonstrate sustained academic growth.

Lake Stevens holds another Family Safe Downtown Halloween bringing hundreds of ghosts and goblins to the streets of downtown for games, candy and a haunted house.

November: The Greater Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce holds their annual gala and auction. This year the Chamber named the Lake Stevens Journal as Business of the Year and Police Chief Randy Celori as Chamber Member of the Year.

Warren Jones, Bill Clough and Fred Cushman were each inducted into the Lake Stevens Hall of Fame for all of their efforts in making Lake Stevens a better community to live in.

Lake Stevens own Mike Hope and Steve Hobbs are both re-elected to their seats in the Legislature.

High winds took down several trees in Lake Stevens and kids were given time off when snow came down all over the state.

December: Residents give generously to tips for Firefighters and other local service clubs who helped families in need at Christmas.

Representative Mike Hope announced his run for Snohomish County Executive. Hope will be on the ballot next November.

Lake Stevens Kiwanis held their annual tree lighting ceremony and Santa showed up to visit with the children.

The Lake Stevens City Council voted 4-3 to allow the Lake Stevens Food Bank more time to submit sufficient information if they would like to be considered to use the existing pole barn in Eagle Ridge Park.



Photo by Alan Soler
Jack Reeves from Lake Stevens placed second in the 145 pound category at the Viking Invite.

2010 Wrestling Invitational

BY ALAN SOLER | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Lake Stevens Wrestling team finished in first place in the team standings at the second annual Viking Invite held at Cavelero Mid-high on Thursday, Dec. 30.

Leading the way for the Vikings were Brandon Belcher who defeated Mercer Island's Phil Frazier 8-5 to win the 171 lb. championship and Cody Schlosser who pinned Yelm's Anthony Kyser to win the 285 lb. championship.

Top four placers for Lake Stevens were: Champions: Braden Belcher, Cody Schlosser; second place finish: Jesse Peterson, Dakoda Reynolds, Eric Soler, Austin Gershmel, Jack Reeves, Andrew King, Ryan Olliges; third place finish: Mick Majors, Lance Johnson; fourth place finish: Casey Walkley and Kinsey Johnson.